



Press release

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Cambridge Brings 800 Years of Experience to Greece

As part of Cambridge University's 800th anniversary celebrations, Cambridge ESOL's Chief Executive Dr Mike Milanovic hosted a special celebratory conference in Greece. The event which was held on 5 February at Her Majesty's Ambassador's (HMA) residence in Athens focused on the positive impact Cambridge's English examinations have had in Greece. Cambridge ESOL, a department of the University, reported back on how they have increased English language opportunities for tens of thousands of students since the exams first became available for Greece in 1938. They also highlighted their commitment to continuing widening opportunities through close collaboration with authorities and business partners in the region.

Speeches from Dr Mike Milanovic and HMA Dr. David Landsman OBE focused on how close collaboration between Greece and Cambridge University has allowed greater educational opportunities in Greece. The audience of 200 guests included a number of Greek nationals who have studied in Cambridge.

Andy Chamberlain, Cambridge ESOL's Regional Manager in the area explained some of these benefits this long standing relationship has encouraged:

"We have been offering language opportunities in Greece for over seventy years and have issued well over a million Cambridge ESOL certificates to Greek candidates to date. Our language qualifications have opened doors to thousands wishing to engage in further study and improve their career prospects. This is part of our ongoing commitment to offer our world renowned expertise in language assessment to learners of English in Greece."

Last year, Cambridge ESOL was heavily involved in a number of projects and events in Greece in the run up to the anniversary. Highlights included events and seminars for over 5,000 Greek teachers in 2008 and the recognition of the Business Language Testing Service (BULATS) by ASEP (Supreme Council for Personnel Selection in Greece) as proof of English language ability. To ensure they are fully resourced for the

challenges ahead in Greece, Cambridge ESOL also reported a significant boost in resources in 2008. Their office in Athens is now the centre of operations across Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. This helps to continually improve the service to teachers and candidates in the region.

Further events are planned throughout 2009 to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of Cambridge University – to find out more, please visit:

<http://www.800.cam.ac.uk/>

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